and Kashmir, Haryana and Delhi to the Army till there is a improvement in the law and order situation in these areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, para-military forces like BSF/CRPF are being deployed to guard AIR/Doordarshan installations in the States of Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir for providing adequate security.

Security to electronic media Employees

225. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion that a fool proof security cover should be provided to all electronic media employees and their families in all sensitive areas to restore their confidence; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such suggestions and the steps taken by Government in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, one of the demands put forward by the various Associations of AIR/Doordarshan employees in the wake of the killing of the Station Engineer, AIR Patiala was that the security of AIR/Doordarshan installations in the State of Punjab and J & K should be handed over to the para military forces. Accordingly, BSF/CRPF personnel are being deproved to guard AIR Doordarshan installations in the States of Punjab and J & K . An Inter-Ministerial Group comprising representatives of Minisrty of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Media Units is reviewing the status of security of media installations in Punjab and J & K.

Killing of the Station Director; AIR Patiala

226. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that militants who had taken the responsibility of kidnapping the Station Director, AIR Patiala Shri M. L. Manchanda had as one of the conditions for his release sought prescription of a code of conduct for electronic media in Punjab;

(b) if so, what were the conditions offered by them and what efforts were made by Government to secure his release; and

(c) whether the headless body of the said Station Director was later recovered from one place and his head from another after a lapse of over forty days; if so, what steps have been taken to restore confidence amongst the media staff in Punjab?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) A statement released to the Press by a militant organisation claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the Station Engineer, AIR, Patiiala and contained conditions pertaining to the broadcast and telecast of programmes from AIR & Doordarsnan Stations in Punjab and Chandigarh. The conditions included (i) broadcast of a letter written by the convicts in General A. S. Vaidva's murder case through the national hook up of AIR and Doordarshan; (ii) broadcast of all programmes in Punjabi by AIR Stations of Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Patiala and Bhatinda; (iii) stoppage of national Hindi bulletins from these Stations; (iv)

telecast of more quality Punjabi programmes from DDK Jalandhar with special emphasis on Khalasa Culture; (v)Limiting the Hindi programmes to 5 per cent, removal of all non-Punjabi Producers and Artists from AIR/Doordarshan Kendras in Punjab & Chandigarh; (vi) appointment of Sikh announcers and artist in AIR/Doordarshan Stations in Punjab; (vii) procurement of Punjabi teleprinters for use in AIR/Doordarshan Stations in Punjab; (viii) special preference for the views of militant organisations in the news bulletins; (ix) replacement of the word 'militant' by the Punjabi word 'Kharku'; (x) non-usage of the words-"terrorists", "extremists and "ultres" in the news bulletins; (xi) invitation to the militants and their representatives to present their views on Radio and Television; and (xii) commencement of every programme or news bulletin with "Sat Sri Akal' in place of "Namaskar" as at present.

Information relating to the kidnapping of Shri M. L. Manchanda, Station Engineer , AIR, Patiala was received on 19th May, 1992. Ministry of Home Affairs and Government of Punjab were contacted immediately to effect the safe recoverp of the officer . Senior officers of the Ministry and DG: AIR visited Patiala and met the staff of AIR and reviewed the security measures and also visited the family of kidnapped officer in Panipat. However, unfortunately, on 27th May, 1992; i.e.; after a lapse of 9 days from the date of kidnapping, Shri Manchanda's headless body was recovered from the Punjab-Haryana border.

The security of AIR/Doordarshan installations in the State of Punjab has reviewed and steps have been taken to strengthen security. CRPF/BSF are being deployed to guard all AIR/Doordarshan installations as well as residential colonies in the State of Punjab PSOs have been provided for Heads of offices, and armed guards have been posted at their residences. The members of the staff are placed up from their residence and dropped at the office and *vice-versa* under armed escort. Mobile armed guards have also been provided for OB duties. Action has also been initiated for construction of additional staff quarters, wherever required.

Pending demands of staff artists

227. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SOMPAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demands are pending since long for: (1) separate cadre for staff artists iin I&B or its equivalent with time bound pay scales;

(2) promotional avenue at par with other cadres of AIR and Doordarshan for creating proportionate number of higher posts;

(3) the basis of selection of newsreaders-cum-translators for promotion to grade II and I be restored to "Seniority-cum-fitness";

(4) appointment of Cadre Review Committee;

(5) filling up the vacancies caused by retirement in different language units; and on other issues: and

(6) what is reaction of Government to these demands, so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) An Association representating the erstwhile Staff Artists/ Artists of All India Radio and Doordarahan has raised various demands from time to time and such demands are examined on continuous basis. All Staff Artists/Artists of All India Radio and Doordarshan have since been deemed to by Govt. Servants with effect from 6th March 1982, and they will be governed by same conditions of service as are applicable to Civilian Central Govt. Employees. Demands made by the Association pertaining to Cadre Review, promotional avenues etc. are considered in the light of relevant instructions of the Govt.